

Fwd: Draft Louth County Development plan 2021-2027

Donal Rice []

Sent: 22 December 2020 20:16

To: LouthCDP

Subject: Draft Louth County Development plan 2021-2027

To: <louthcdp@louthcoco.ie>

Cc: < >

Dear Sir /Madam

"I refer to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2017. In particular, I want to express my concerns with reference to the 'Qualifying Criteria Rural Policy Zone 1'.

I live in zone 1, the area has significant landscape value, however, this should not mean that our children and the next generation in future years can not remain as part of our community. I am worried that the Draft plan will mean that the next generation will not be able to be part of our community as they will not be able to build their own homes here. It will be detrimental to the community if future generations are unable to live close to and help care for members of their family and community.

The qualifying criteria for Rural Policy Zone 1 in the Draft plan discriminates against those who are not engaged in full time agriculture. I have lived in the area most of my life. My family have been involved in agriculture for generations. I do not own 3 hectares nor am I engaged in full time agriculture. Any children whose parents are not landowners and engaged in agriculture in the community, will not be in a position to build their homes here. It will decimate our community. Family members will be forced to move out of the area. Social isolation of the current population will increase in the area as a result.

This draft plan should be revised so my 3 daughters could be allowed build in the area they grew up in and lived if they so wish. They shouldn't have to move to a town when they are from the country.

Does the louth county council want more people living in Dundalk which cannot handle the population already in town take for example the effluent plant which is already over loaded, the traffic to schools is crazy and dangerous, what options are you giving people with this development plan??

I fear that Rampark National School will be forced to close due to a decrease in numbers. If the people currently growing up in the area are unable to build their homes and raise their families in our community the school attendance will drop. The school is a very important part of the community here. So also is the GAA club and Station house coffee shop both very important in our community. These will all have to close with no new families being able to live here.

I would ask that you prevent further action on the Draft plan. Due to Covid19 the residents of this area have been unable to hold public meetings to discuss the implications of the changes proposed in the plan. Delaying the plan would give residents in the area a chance to have their say and possibly suggest changes that would not be so detrimental to the community and families living here.

Yours sincerely

Donal Rice